

# **Independent Ombudsman**

**for the**

## **Texas Juvenile Justice Department**



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### **Third Quarter Report FY 17**

March 1, 2017 to May 31, 2017

## Introduction:

This report is the third Quarterly Report of FY 2017 to be submitted by this office under statute and is intended for the Executive Director of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD), the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House, members of the Texas Legislature, and the Auditor for the State of Texas. This report will serve to provide a description of the activities of the office during the second quarter of FY 17 spanning March 2017 through May 2017.

## Overview of the Work of the Independent Ombudsman

The Independent Ombudsman (IO) was established for the purpose of investigating, evaluating, and securing the rights of the children committed to the Juvenile Justice Department, including a child released under supervision before final discharge. Senate Bill 1630, passed during the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, expanded those duties to include county post-adjudication facilities and contract facilities where county post-adjudicated youth are placed. To fulfill the duties of the office, IO staff regularly visit all TJJD secure facilities, halfway houses, parole offices, all county post-adjudication facilities and TJJD and county contract care programs. The IO also tracks Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation (ANE) incidents from all pre/post adjudication county facilities.

In May of this year a 13 year old male housed at Ron Jackson SJCC hung himself in his room and died 12 days later. The IO conducted a review of the youth's history and the circumstances leading up to his suicide.

A review of video and logs indicated that staff followed applicable procedures during the 24 hour period before the youth hung himself and followed accepted guidelines in responding afterwards.

TJJD provided a detailed chronology of the youth's history prior to commitment and information regarding assessments and screenings the youth had undergone since his arrival at TJJD. This youth was committed to TJJD with a history of mental health issues and he had previously made suicide attempts and had multiple commitments to psychiatric facilities. During the review, the IO learned of TJJD's practice of stopping a youth's medication after the youth refuses the medication three times. The IO questioned the impact of abruptly stopping a medication for a youth with his mental health history and asked about additional precautions taken to keep this youth safe after stopping his medication.

## Accounting of Site Visits, Youth Contact and Individual Cases

	<b>FY16</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter FY17</b>	<b>FY17 Total</b>
<b>TJJD/Contract Site Visits</b>	196	61	181
<b>County Post Adjudicated/Contract Facility Site Visits</b>	300	104	352
<b>Number of Youth Interviewed</b>	3194	1150	3137
<b>Number of Youth Interviews Conducted</b>	5451	1614	5048
<b>Closed Cases</b>	119	24	86

## **TJJD facilities visited by IO staff during the third quarter**

### **Secure Facilities**

Evins Regional Juvenile Center-*Edinburg TX*  
Gainesville State School-*Gainesville TX*  
Giddings State School-*Giddings TX*  
McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility-*Mart TX*  
McLennan Residential Treatment Center-*Mart TX*  
Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Complex -*Brownwood TX*

### **TJJD Halfway Houses**

Ayres House-*San Antonio TX*  
Brownwood Halfway House-*Brownwood TX*  
Cottrell House-*Dallas TX*  
Edna Tamayo House-*Harlingen TX*  
McFadden Ranch-*Roanoke TX*  
Schaeffer House-*El Paso TX*  
Willoughby House-*Fort Worth TX*  
York House-*Corpus Christi TX*

### **Contract Care Facilities**

Amikids, dba Rio Grande Valley-*Los Fresnos TX*  
Garza County Regional Juvenile Center-*Post TX*  
Gulf Coast Trades Center-*New Waverly TX*  
Pegasus School RTC-*Lockhart TX*  
Rite of Passage, Inc-*Granbury TX*  
The Giocosa Foundation-*Arlington TX*  
The Oaks-*Brownwood*

### **Parole**

Amarillo Parole Region  
Austin Parole Region  
Bell County Parole Region  
Dallas Parole Office  
El Paso Parole Office  
Fort Worth Parole Office  
Harlingen Parole Region  
Houston Parole Office  
Lubbock Parole Region  
Midland Parole Region  
San Antonio Parole Office

## **County post-adjudicated facilities visited by IO staff during the third quarter**

### **County Operated**

Amador R Rodriguez Boot Camp & Educational Center-*San Benito TX (Cameron County)*  
Bell County Juvenile Services Center-*Killeen TX*  
Bill Logue Juvenile Justice Center-*Waco TX (McLennan County)*  
Brazoria County Juvenile Detention/Residential Treatment-*Angleton TX*  
Burnett Bayland Rehabilitation Center-*Houston TX (Harris County)*  
Cyndi Taylor Krier Juvenile Correctional Treatment-*San Antonio TX (Bexar County)*  
Dallas County Short Term Adolescent Residential Treatment-*Dallas TX*  
Dallas County Residential Programs and Drug Treatment-*Dallas TX*  
Dallas County Youth Village-*Dallas TX*  
Denton County Secure Correctional Facility-*Denton TX*  
Ector County Youth Center-*Odessa TX*  
Fort Bend County Juvenile Leadership Academy-Secure-*Richmond TX*  
Grayson County Post-Adjudication Facility-*Denison TX*  
Harris County Youth Village-*Seabrook TX*  
Hays County Juvenile Post-Detention Center-*San Marcos TX*  
H.O.P.E. Academy-*Tyler TX (Smith County)*  
Jerry J. Esmond Juvenile Justice Center-*Galveston TX (Dickinson County)*  
John R. Roach Juvenile Detention Center-*McKinney TX (Collin County)*  
Judge Mario E. Ramirez Jr. Juvenile Justice Center-*Weslaco TX (Hidalgo County)*  
Judge Ricardo H. Garcia Regional Juv. Detention-*San Diego TX (Duval County)*  
L.I.F.E. & B.R.A.V.E. Residential Program-*San Benito TX (Cameron County)*  
Leadership Academy-*Katy TX (Harris County)*  
Letot Residential Treatment Center-*Dallas TX (Dallas County)*  
Lubbock County Juvenile Justice Center-*Lubbock TX*  
Lyle B. Medlock Treatment Facility-*Dallas TX (Dallas County)*  
Marzelle Hill Transition Center-*Dallas TX (Dallas County)*  
Meurer Intermediate Sanctions Center & Halfway House-*Austin TX (Travis County)*  
Mission Road Center-*San Antonio TX (Bexar County)*  
Parent Adolescent Center-*Floyddada TX (Floyd County)*  
Robert N. Barnes Regional Juvenile Facility-*Corpus Christi TX (Nueces County)*  
Rockdale Regional Juvenile Justice Center-*Rockdale TX (Milam County)*  
Samuel F. Santana Challenge Program-*El Paso TX (El Paso County)*  
The Youth Center of the High Plains-*Amarillo TX (Randall County)*  
Van Zandt County Youth Multi-Service Center-*Grand Saline TX*  
Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Facility-*Victoria TX*  
Williamson County Academy-*Georgetown TX*  
Williamson County Triad/Trinity Programs-*Georgetown TX*

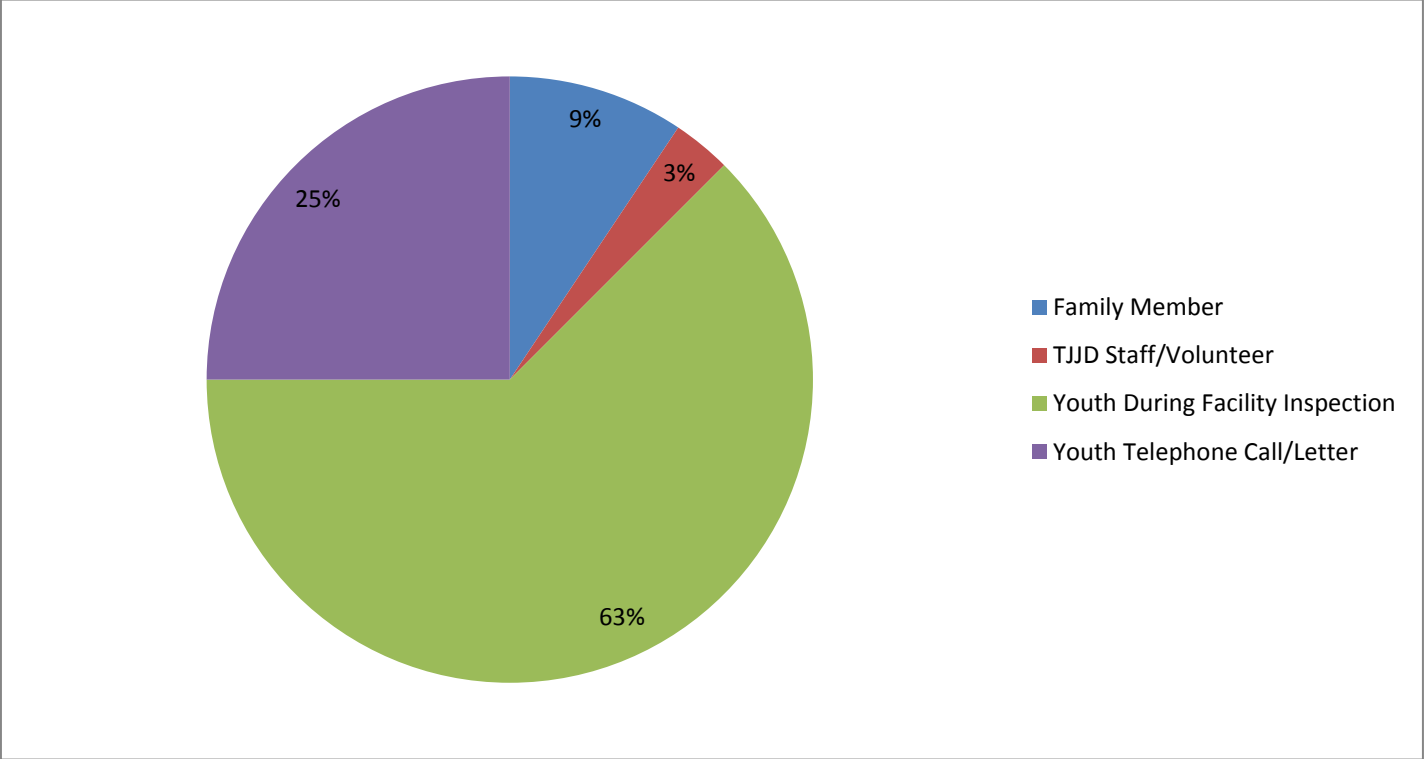
### **Contract Care Facilities for post adjudicated**

Abraxas Hector Garza Center-*San Antonio TX*  
Arms of Hope-*Medina TX*  
Athletes for Change-*Glenn Heights TX*  
Austin Children's Center-*Austin TX*  
Austin State Hospital-*Austin TX*  
Azleway Drug Treatment Program-*Big Sandy TX*  
Bridge Emergency Youth Services-*San Antonio TX*  
Brookhaven Youth Ranch-*West TX*  
Cal Farley's Boys & Girls Ranch-*Amarillo TX*  
Carter's Kids Residential Treatment Center-*Richmond TX*  
Center for Success and Independence-*Houston TX*

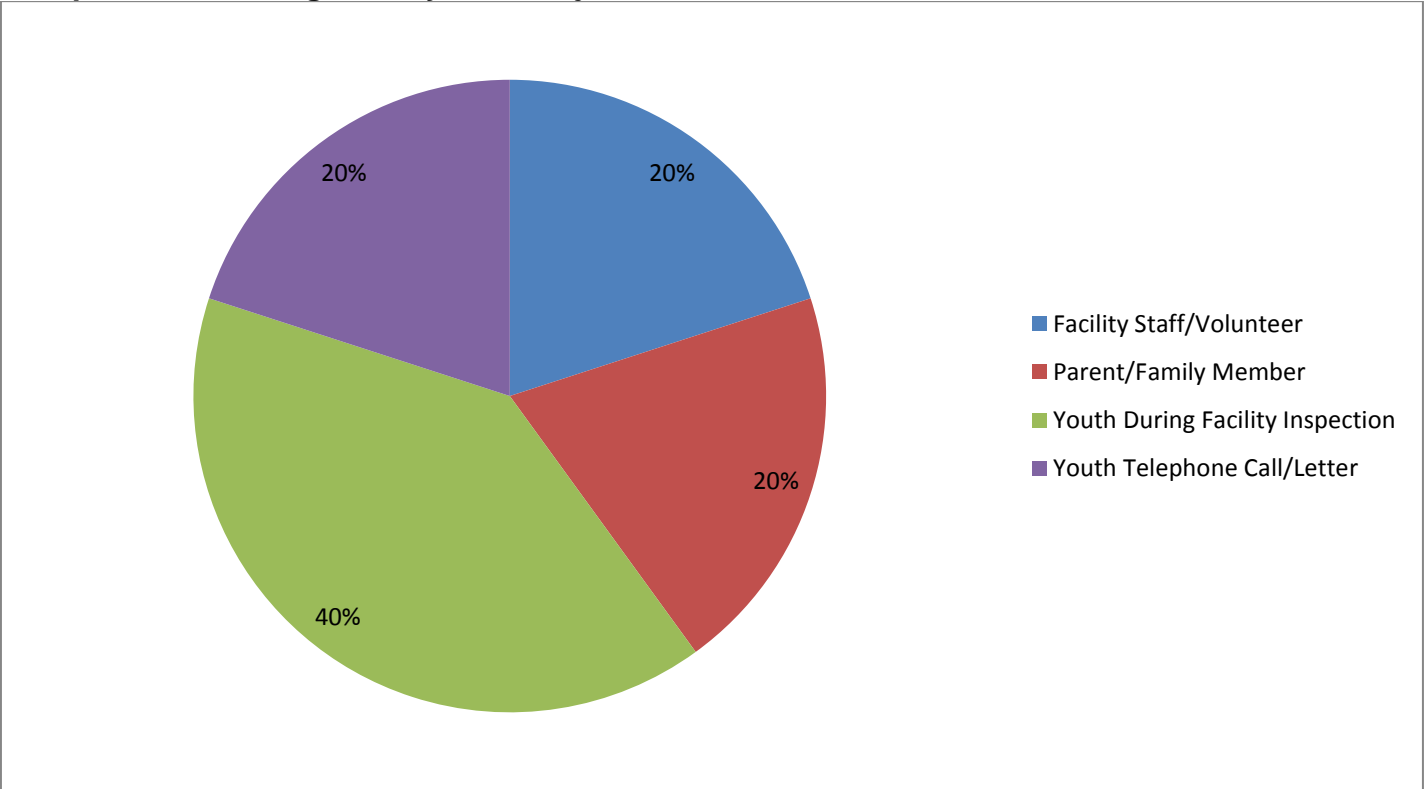
Cherokee Home for Children-*Cherokee TX*  
Concho Valley Home for Girls-*San Angelo TX*  
Everyday Life RTC-*Bryan TX*  
Foster's Home-*Stephenville TX*  
Freedom Place-*Spring TX*  
Good Shepherd-*Tomball TX*  
Hope Home-*Early TX*  
Krause Children's Center-*Katy TX*  
Methodist Home-*Waco TX*  
MHMR Tarrant County-Fort Worth TX  
New Horizons, Audrey Grace House-*Abilene TX*  
New Horizons, The Ranch-*Goldthwaite TX*  
New Life Children's Home-*Canyon Lake TX*  
North Texas State Hospital-*Vernon TX*  
North Texas State Hospital-*Wichita Falls TX*  
Odyssey House-*Houston TX*  
Pathways Wilderness Program-*Mountain Home TX*  
Phoenix House-*Austin TX*  
Reed Adolescent Center-*Plainview TX*  
San Marcos Treatment Center-*San Marcos TX*  
Selena Center Youth Potential-*San Antonio TX*  
Shamar Hope Haven RTC-*Houston TX*  
Shoreline RTC-*Taft TX*  
West Texas Boys Ranch-*San Angelo TX*  
Willoughby Juvenile Services-*Marshall TX*  
Willow Bend-*Tyler TX*  
Youth & Family Enrichment Center-*Tyler TX*

Anyone may file a complaint with the IO. Complaints can be made via telephone, mail, fax, email, or in person during a facility inspection. The IO received 37 complaints during the third quarter, 32 involving TJJD youth and 5 involving county post-adjudicated youth. The majority of these cases were received directly from the youth during facility inspections.

**Complaints Involving TJJD Youth-Third Quarter FY 17**



**Complaints involving County Post-Adjudicated Youth-Third Quarter FY 17**



## Complaints Received by Facility

### Complaints Involving TJJD Youth-Third Quarter FY 17

	Behavior Management	Education	MLOS/Release Date Medical	Other	Parole	Rule or Policy	Safety Concerns	Specialized Treatment	Staff Conduct
Total for Facility									
Evins RJC	7		1	1		1	4		
Gainesville State School	8			1		1		2	4
Giddings State School	5				1	1	1	2	
McFadden Ranch	1		1						
McLennan County SJCF	5	1	1	1			2		
McLennan RTC	1					1			
Ron Jackson SJCC	5	1		1				2	1

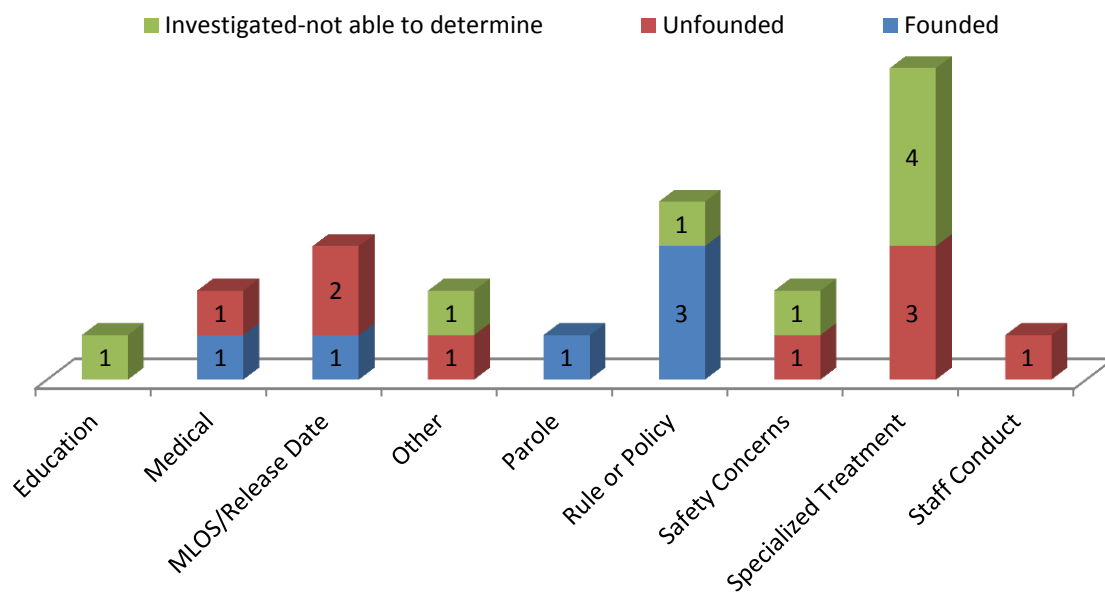
### Complaints Involving County Post-Adjudicated Youth-Third Quarter FY 17

	Pro probation	Safety Concerns	Staff Conduct
Cherokee Home for Children	1		
Denton County Secure Correctional Facility		1	
Ector County Youth Center			1
Shoreline RTC		1	
The Oaks Brownwood		1	

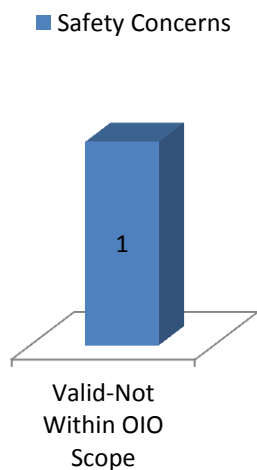
## Closed Cases

The IO closed 24 cases in the third quarter, 23 involving TJJD youth and 1 involving county post-adjudicated youth. Cases are closed in one of four ways: Founded, Unfounded, Investigated-unable to determine, and Valid-not within IO scope.

**COMPLAINT TYPE & DISPOSITION-THIRD QUARTER FY 17**  
Involving TJJD Youth



**COMPLAINT TYPE & DISPOSITION-THIRD QUARTER FY 17**  
Involving County Post Adjudicated Youth



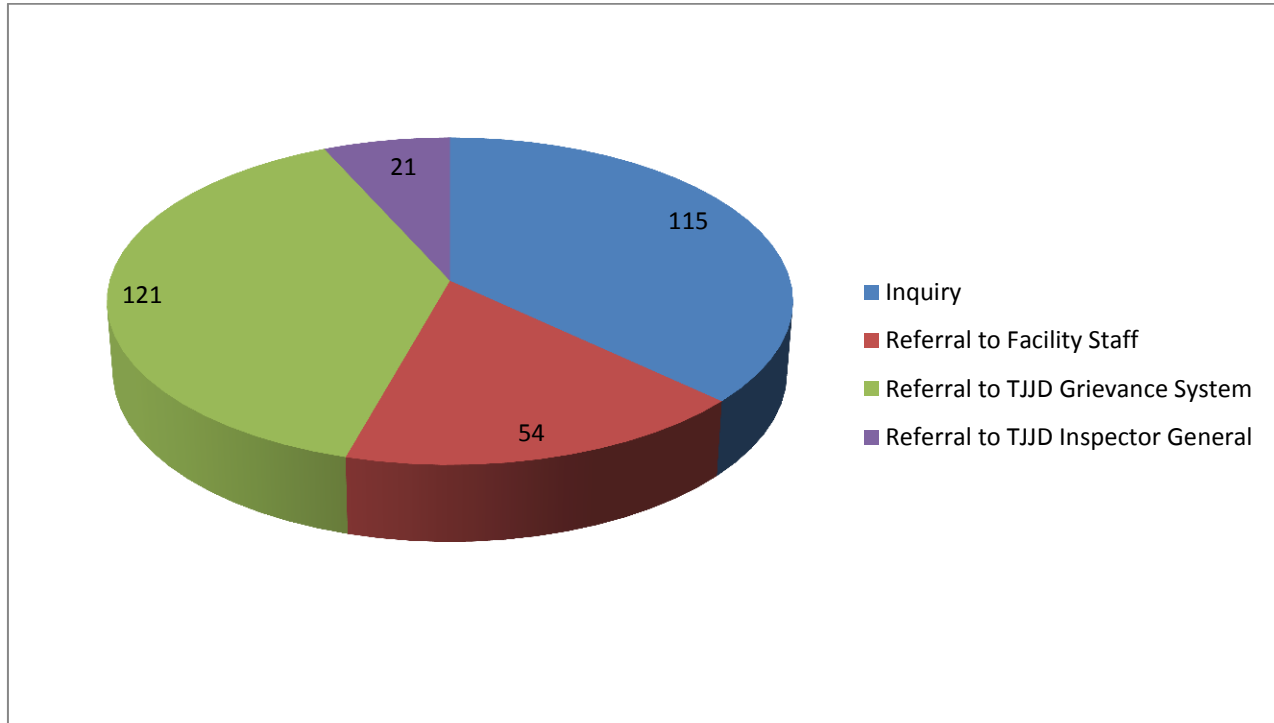
\* Note: The Independent Ombudsman generally does not make findings regarding the quality or appropriateness of the care delivered. Unless otherwise noted, the medical cases in this report involve only issues of access to health care services.



## Inquiries and Referrals

In addition to the cases that are investigated by IO staff, the office also receives numerous inquiries and complaints that are referred to the appropriate authority. The IO received 385 inquiries and referrals during the third quarter, 311 related to TJJD and 74 related to County Post-Adjudicated facilities.

### Inquiries/Referrals for TJJD-Third Quarter FY 17



### Inquiries/Referrals for County Post-Adjudicated Facilities-Third Quarter FY 17

